

LIBRARY



FELIXSTONE

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
and the
S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1947.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

to the Chairman and Members of the
Felixstowe Urban District Council

for the year ended December 31st, 1947.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1947.

The population of the District, as estimated by the Food Office figures in June 1947 was 12,938.

Birth Rate - 356 births were registered - 191 males and 165 females - of whom 10 males and 5 females were illegitimate. The birth rate is thus 27 per thousand.

Death Rate - 177 deaths were registered in the district and there were 31 inward transfers, i.e. deaths of residents who died elsewhere. 25 of the registered deaths belonged to other districts so that the total properly belonging to the district is 183, giving a death rate of 14 per thousand.

Infantile Mortality Rate - 13 deaths of children under one year of age were registered in the district; there were 3 outward transfers and one inward, so that the total number properly belonging to the district is 11. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 30 per thousand births registered.

Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Among the civilian population 3 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and sent to the Isolation Hospital, Ipswich. 1 case of Malaria (female 2½ years) was notified.

Among His Majesty's forces 1 case of Dysentery (male 23) was notified.

Water supply and sewage disposal were fully dealt with in my report for 1946 and there is nothing to add. Analyses of water by the Company's officials and the Sanitary Inspector have invariably given satisfactory results. All details of milk analyses, food inspection and abatement of nuisances are fully given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

The following report gives details of the work done in connection with the Centre.

Number of Cases

Midwifery	123
Maternity (Dr. booked)	167
Medical	82
Surgical	11
	—
	383
	==

Number of Nursing Visits

Midwifery	1586
Maternity	2448
General (Medical)	1263
(Surgical)	265
Miscarriages	116
<hr/>	
Total	5678
<hr/>	

Public Health Visits

0 to 5 years	888
Ante Natal visits	753
<hr/>	
Total	1641
<hr/>	

Clinic Visits

Felixstowe	160
Walton	2239
Kirton	252
Ante and Post Natal	335
Children seen by Doctor	1576
<hr/>	
Total	4562
<hr/>	

A full time Health Visitor was appointed in November to visit children in Felixstowe.

A second clinic for children was started at Trinity Methodist Schoolroom to ease the numbers at Walton. This is held on Monday at 2 p.m. each week.

Ante Natal Clinics are held at Trinity Methodist Schoolroom the first and third Mondays in each month at 10 a.m.

The Clinic at Walton is still held on Thursdays at 2 p.m. for the children of that district.

Diphtheria Immunisation during 1947.

Clinics for diphtheria Immunisation are held at the Child Welfare centre on days appointed by the County Health Authority. Arrangements are also made for immunisation at the County Hall, Ipswich, and a few are done privately by the medical men of this district, who are supplied with the vaccine by the County authority.

The child population at the middle of the year is estimated as follows:-

Age group 0 - 4 years	=	1470
" " 5 - 18 "	=	2168

Details of the completed immunisation are as follows:-

	<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>5-14 years.</u>
From Jan. 1st to June 30th 1947.	101	27
From July 1st to December 31st 1947.	113	17
<hr/>		
2.	214	44
<hr/>		

Total number recorded as having received immunisation since the commencement of the procedure - 1107.

Hospital Accommodation.

The Felixstowe Cottage Hospital has 34 beds, is staffed by the medical men of the district and serves the needs of Felixstowe and Walton, Trimley and Falkenham. The staff and secretary publish an annual report on its work.

The Suffolk Convalescent Home receives patients, both children and adults from this district, London and elsewhere. The Home normally has 72 beds but at present only 56 are available because of the reconstruction of the building. 16 of these beds are reserved for children and the remaining 40 allotted between adult patients - male and female - according to need.

The Bartlett Convalescent Home serves the needs of the East Suffolk Hospital, Ipswich and the Herman de Stearn Home (at present unoccupied) those of the London Hospital.

District Nursing Association.

The association is supported partly by voluntary contributions and partly by a county grant. There are three fully certificated District nurses, who are also in charge of the Maternity and Child Welfare centre, under supervision of a doctor appointed by the County authority.

The tables given with this report are correct up to the time of writing and may require correction when the final returns from the County Authority and the Registrar are received, though it is improbable that the vital statistics will need any appreciable alteration.

I am,

Madam Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. J. CONFORD, D.M. (Oxon) M.O.H.

FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT
TUBERCULOSIS TABLE FOR YEAR 1947.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non Pulm.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Number on Register Jan.1st 1947.	26	14	6	3
Number added during the year	6	8	3	5
Removed during year	5	7	-	2
On Register on Dec. 31st 1947.	27	15	9	6

FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT
TABLE OF CANCER MORTALITY FOR 1947.

<u>Region Affected.</u>	<u>25-40</u>		<u>Age Periods.</u>				<u>Totals.</u>	
			<u>40-60</u>		<u>60 & over</u>			
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Stomach					2	4	2	4
Oesophagus				1		1		2
Liver					1	1	1	1
Bronchus						1		1
Bladder					1		1	
Prostate					1		1	
Kidney						1		1
Leg					1		1	
Ovary				1		1		2
Breast				1				1
Totals	-	-	-	3	6	9	6	12
Inward Transfers			1		1		2	
Outward Transfers						3		3
Total belonging to District	0	0	1	3	7	6	8	9

FELIXSTOWE URBAN DISTRICT

MORTALITY TABLE FOR 1947.

	0-1		1-5		5-15		Age Periods.						65 & Over		Total		Transfers			Total belonging to District.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	15-25		25-45		45-65		M	F	M	F	In	Out	M	F	
							M	F	M	F	M	F									
Pneumonia	2	1										2	1	5	1	2	2	8	3		
Bronchitis		1								2	1	1	5	3	7	1	1	3	7		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis									2		2				4				4		
Other Tubercular Diseases									1						2		1		1		
Heart Disease & Senile) Myocardial Degeneration)											1	18	4	26	4	7	3	27	47		
Cerebral Haemorrhage) Thrombosis and Embolism)	1							2		5	1	10	13	15	13	2	5	11	15		
Cancer									2	1	4	5	9	6	15	2	2	8	13		
Nephritis									1	3	1	3		6	2	1		7	2		
Aneurism									1		1				2				2		
Appendicitis													1		1		1	-	-		
Perforated Ileum																1		1			
Strangulated Hernia																			1		
Gastro-enteritis	1													1				1			
Carried forward	4	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	5	7	13	10	70	62	91	14	13	66	95		

	0-1		1-5		5-15		Age Periods								65 & Over		Total		Transfers				Total belonging to District.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	15-25		25-45		45-65		M	F	M	F	M	F	In	Out	M	F		
							M	F	M	F	M	F												
Brought forward	4	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	5	7	13	10	39	70	62	91	4	13	10	9	65	95		
Diabetes																	2				2			
Other diseases										1	1	3	1	2	2	6			3		2	3		
Prematurity and other Diseases of Newborn)	4	4													4	4	1				5	4		
Accidents							1	1	1				2		4	1		1	2	1	2	1		
Suicides										1	1	1			1	2					1	2		
TOTALS	8	5	1	-	-	3	1	1	6	9	15	14	42	72	73	104	17	14	12	13	78	105		

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

203 complaints were received during the year.

293 Notices were served. 242 Informal and 51 Statutory
(46 Public Health Act. 4 Housing Act. 1 Factories Act)

Work was carried out in default in one case under the Public Health Act.

WATER SUPPLY.

Ten samples of the Town's water supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and two for chemical examination. The bacteriological samples included a series taken at the Water Works before and after treatment to check the regularity and efficiency of the filtration and chlorination at Bucklesham where stream water is obtained to supplement the deep well water drawn from Rushmere. Copies of the latest Analyst's and Bacteriologist's reports are given below:-

Chemical Analysis.

Source Town Supply. Tap, York Cottage, Lansdowne Rd.

Collected 9.9.47 - 2.15 p.m.

Analysis.

Physical Characteristics:	Clear.	<u>Parts per 100,000</u>
Free and Saline Ammonia		nil
Albuminoid Ammonia		.001
Combined Chlorine		3.6
Nitrogen as Nitrates		.64
Nitrites		nil
Total Solids in Solution		--
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80°F.		--
Hardness before Boiling (total)		20.9
" after Boiling (permanent)		9.0

Opinion:- This is a pure and wholesome water in excellent condition, quite fit for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply.

(Sgd) W. LINCOLNE SUTTON.

Public Analyst,
Norfolk & Suffolk County Lab.,
Clement Court,
Redwell Street,
Norwich.

Bacteriological Examination.

Plate Count 3 days at R.T. = 3 per ml.

" " 2 days at 37°C = 0 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 ml.
= 0.

Bacteriological findings satisfactory.

(Signed) E. J. Woodward.

for M.O., I/C Ipswich Subsidiary Laboratory.
4 - 9 - 47.

PRIVATE WELLS. Samples were taken as follows:-

Girls Boarding School. Supplied by a mixture of water from three shallow wells (chlorinated). Five samples - all satisfactory. Colour tests to check the adequacy of the chlorination treatment are made by the Sanitary Inspector at frequent intervals throughout the year.

Boys Boarding School. Well deepened and improved this year. One sample - result satisfactory.

Public Elementary School at Old Felixstowe. Supplied by shallow well pumped into tank. One sample - satisfactory.

Dairy. Two samples, both unsatisfactory, were taken from a well hitherto serving an old established dairy and as a result the dairy has been connected to the Town's water mains and the use of well water discontinued.

Ten farm cottages hitherto supplied from shallow wells received during the year a piped supply from the deep wells at Gulpher. The improvement was carried out under the Ministry of Agriculture's scheme for improving rural water supplies. The water now being supplied was sampled and approved by the Public Health Committee last year.

There are five houses in Grange Road, one in Mill Lane, and one in High Street within reach of the mains but not connected to Town water.

FELIXSTOWE FERRY. The Ferry ran short of water this year not from an influx of summer visitors but because of the freezing up of the supply pipe on which all these houses depend and water had to be carted in tanks. Thus both winter and summer conditions have emphasized the inadequacy of the Ferry water supply, which has been the subject of special report, both before and since the war.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. There are eleven houses within easy reach of the sewer but still provided with pail closets, the contents of which are not emptied by the Council but disposed of by the tenants on cottage gardens. The Council can enforce the conversion of these pail closets by paying half the cost of the work required to replace them with water closets connected to the sewer. It would be more economical in the long run and much more hygienic to convert the closets than to begin cleansing and disposing of their contents as part of the Council's cleansing service, but in the Writer's opinion cleansing should be done until the conversions can be carried out as the continual disposal by tenants on their own gardens is an outworn and insanitary process.

HOUSING ACT. One house at the Ferry was represented to the Council under the Housing Act as being unfit for habitation and not capable of repair at reasonable expense and an undertaking by the owner to carry out work of re-conditioning and repairs was later accepted.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Houses inspected under Public Health Act or Housing Act.	110
No. of inspections and revisits made	388

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Inspections Re:	
Bakehouses	40
Fish fryers	33
Beach Hut Sites	43
Stables, Piggeries & keeping of Animals	22
Overcrowding	2
Refuse accommodation	140
Ice Cream Premises	129
Tents, Vans and Camping Sites	123
Sanitary defects and nuisances	146
Accumulations	39
Smoke observations	12
Houses re Vermin	28
Cesspools	58
Closet accommodation	34

MILK & DAIRIES.

Cowsheds	31
Dairies and Milkshops	67
Samples of Milk taken	25

MEAT

Slaughterhouses	12
Butchers Shops	111

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

Factories	84
-----------	----

DRAINS.

Inspected	206
Tested with water	11
- do - smoke	28
Cleared	27

MISCELLANEOUS.

Water Samples	18
Shops Inspected (Shops Act)	53
Food Inspections	118
Rat Infestations	18
Water Supply	30
Food Preparing Premises	9
Mosquitos	4
Swimming Pool	4

Total	2,203
-------	-------

SHOPS ACT 1934. Under this Act the Council are responsible for heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation and the County Council for lighting and the provision of facilities for washing and the taking of meals in shops.

No. of shops inspected during the year - 53.

Infringements remedied:-

Insufficient sanitary accommodation	1
Insufficient heating	3

No certificates exempting premises from the requirements relating to the provision of sanitary accommodation were issued during the year.

CAMPING SITES. The number of sites licensed for camping under the Public Health Act 1936 (Section 269) during the year was:-

Licences to use land as a site for caravans	6
Licences issued to individual caravan dwellers to station vans on particular sites	3
Number of applications refused	4

The above details do not relate to Beach Hut Sites where a certain amount of camping is done by weekenders at the height of the season and not easily controlled by the Council under the slender powers conferred on them by the Act.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	No. on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	41	56	3	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	34	28	4	-
Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	75	84	7	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	1	1	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage to floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:-					
(a) insufficient	1	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	7	-	-	-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK. There are six registered cowsheds in the Urban District; three producing tuberculin tested milk, two producing accredited, and one ungraded milk. Conditions in these cowsheds are generally good and no action has been called for under the Milk & Dairies Order throughout the year. 31 inspections of cowsheds were made whilst milking was in progress. One cowshed was connected to the public sewer.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

The following special milk licences were issued during 1947:-

Bottler of Tuberculin Tested	2
Bottler of Accredited	1
Pasteuriser	-
Dealer in Tuberculin Tested	1
Dealer in Pasteurised	1

-

5

=

Examinations of Milk for Cleanliness.

26 samples of milk submitted to the East Suffolk County Council Laboratory were:-

	<u>No. taken</u>	<u>Result</u> <u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Result</u> <u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Tuberculin Tested	14	9	5
Accredited	4	2	2
Pasteurised	7	7	-
Ungraded (ordinary)	1	1	-
	26	19	7

The failure to pass the test of most of the above samples was almost certainly due to faulty cleansing of bottles caused by defects in mechanical washers which would have been replaced but for the war. New bottle washing machines which have long been on order for principal dairies are expected to be installed early in 1948.

Total number of visits paid to dairies - 67.

ICE CREAM. The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations came into force on the 1st May, 1947. Their principal effect is to make compulsory the heat treatment of ice cream mix, except when reconstituted from "complete cold mix powders" not at present readily obtainable. After heating to 160°F. the mix must be cooled within 1½ hours to 45°F. and kept at that temperature until frozen into ice cream. If the temperature of the ice cream rises above 28°F. it must not be offered for sale until it has once more been subjected to the heating process. Because of the difficulty of obtaining plant the regulation dealing with cooling does not come fully into force until 1st May, 1948.

The Ministry of Health have suggested a form of Methylene blue test for assessing the bacterial cleanliness of ice cream. The results are divided into four grades and if ice cream consistently fails to reach Grades 1 and 2, this is to be regarded as indicating defects of manufacture and handling which call for further investigation.

Samples of ice cream manufactured locally were examined with the following results:- (The figure shows the grading of the ice cream.)

Retailer's Code No.	May. 14th	June.			July. 8th	Aug. 11th	Sept. 8th
		G	R	A	D	E.	
No.1.	4	4			4		3
2.	2	4				3	
3.	4	4	3	1		4	
4.	2				4		4
5.		2			3	3	
6.		4			3		
7.		3				1	
8.			4	1			4
9.			3	1	4	3	
10.			4	2	1		
11.			4	1			4
12.					1	4	3

	<u>Satisfactory</u> <u>Samples.</u>		<u>Unsatisfactory</u> <u>Samples.</u>
Grade 1	7	Grade 3	10
" 2	4	" 4	17

Total = 38 samples.

These results are not good but so far as the writer's information goes fairly typical of results in other parts of the country. I attribute the failure to reach higher standards of bacterial cleanliness to the following causes:-

- (1) Insufficient sterilizing of utensils. This is due partly to lack of plant but principally to the fact that many traders who manufacture ice cream as a side line do not understand how to maintain bacterial cleanliness of utensils in the same way as this is understood, for instance, in the dairying business. Thus, they often go to great trouble to sterilize utensils and immediately contaminate them by mishandling.
- (2) Lack of adequate cooling plant. The effect of the regulations has been to compel the heating of ice cream mix which, when the daily gallonage is considerable, can be cooled only by standing in cans in running water or in a cold room. The mix on the outside of the buckets cools quickly and the temperature falls to within the register where bacteria can multiply rapidly. Gradually the middle of the mix cools and also becomes invaded by bacteria from the outer parts. Where there cannot be quick and efficient cooling of the whole mass it is permissible to doubt whether the Regulations really operate to improve the finished product from a bacteriological point of view.
- (3) Manufacture of ice cream in restaurant kitchens which, at the height of the season are overcrowded with both goods and workers and subject to the general turmoil of rush hours instead of in a separate room where good dairy practice can be carried out.

It should be remembered that these gradings are provisional and have not the authority of law. There is also a good deal of misconception about bacterial standards in the public mind. It is, after all, not possible to produce sterile ice cream.

Food Inspections. The five slaughterhouses in the district have not been used since the early days of the war except for the slaughter of an occasional householder's pig. Three slaughtermen retain their licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act.

Particulars of food condemned during the year:-

	<u>tinned & bottled</u> <u>goods.</u>		<u>lbs.</u>
Milk	366	Fish	1,264
Meat	65	Meat	672
Fruit	31	Cereals	36
Fish	59	Prunes	40
Jam	47	Biscuits	2
Vegetables	153	Flour	24
Soup	16	Dates	5
Fruit juices	9	Pudding mixture	15
Syrup	2	Camembert Cheeses	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meat and fish pastes	16		
Pickles	7		
Meat Paste	121		
Apple Juice	1		2,062 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mincemeat	2		
Lemon Curd	28		
	923 tins.		

98 ice cream blocks were condemned under the new Ice Cream

Regulations having become defrosted in circumstances where they could not be again subjected to Heat Treatment.

RAT & MICE DESTRUCTION. The Food Ministry's assisted scheme under which rats were exterminated at private dwellings free of charge and at business premises for the actual cost of servicing came to an end here on 31st May, 1947. Under this scheme we had been able to reduce the rat population of the district to the lowest level it has been for many years. The principal advantage of free service to householders was that it enabled us to deal with whole blocks of premises without having first to get every individual occupier thereof to accept liability for a share of the cost. As attempts to get agreement often take up more time than the actual work of rat destruction and sometimes fail altogether it is to be regretted that the Ministry's scheme was not continued. We have now reverted to our householder's contract scheme, servicing private houses for 4/- per annum and have made 52 such contracts since 1st June.

91 complaints of rat infestations were received during the year.

SWIMMING POOL. The filtration and chlorination plant at the sea water swimming pool at Manor House was inspected at intervals during the summer season. The pool has a capacity of 268,000 gallons and the water circulates once every 12 hours passing through a sand filter and a chlorinator and thence via the aerator back to the shallow end of the tank. The water usually shows 0.4 parts per million chlorine on a colour test. Two samples of water taken from the pool at the height of the season when it was receiving up to 150 bathers a day were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported as being of an excellent standard of purity, coliform bacilli being absent from both samples.

PUBLIC HEALTH SHELLFISH REGULATIONS 1934. Whelks are obtained from Cobbolds Point and Shingle Street and are sent in considerable quantities to London. None are obtained from grounds liable to pollution. The whelks are cooked before despatch to market. Winkles can be obtained from the estuary of the Orwell where pollution is possible but they are not gathered for trade purposes.

DISINFECTIONS. 110 disinfections of rooms, bedding &c., were carried out during the year.

I am,

Madam Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT GREENWOOD,
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.